

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)
Connecticut Road
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-BG

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING BUILDING (Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)

HAER No. NY-326-BG

Location: Connecticut Road, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622300.4946480
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1958

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 2010 was originally called the Target Intelligence Training Building No. 2. Building No. 2010 fulfilled many of the same functions in its earlier days as Building No. 2008. Built in 1958, Building 2010's initial design was a reverse image of Building 2008's layout, including areas designated for an Emergency War Plans (EWP) Room, an operational intelligence room, study areas, offices, and storage space. Building 2010 also housed other activities after its Combat Center operations were consolidated into Building 2008.

Project Information: Building No. 2010 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HIAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Physiological Training Building (Building No. 2010)

Layout

Building No. 2010 is a 9,248 square-foot, one-story, reinforced concrete block building faced with brick veneer. This building has an irregular plan and a concrete foundation. The front façade has several offsets and two entrances. The entrance on the left side of the façade is covered with a gabled roof; the right-side entrance is covered with a shed roof. This façade has pairs or groups of one-over-one, double-hung windows. Windows have steel frames painted dark brown, and cast concrete sills. There are five two-over-two fixed windows that appear to have been added on the front elevation, including one six-over-six awning window, and a small window with vertical steel bars. The rear (east) elevation has double doors at the left (north) end of the middle section, with louvered vents near the top on either side. A single door is situated at the elevation's center. Positions for two other double doors have been bricked over. Electrical and heating equipment in the corner formed by the main section of the building and the southern offset, is hidden behind a wood fence. The southern elevation consists of the middle section, set back on the right (east), with the electrical and heating equipment in front, and the southern offset to the left (west), with the name "Aerospace Physiology Unit" on the wall at the upper left, under the edge of the roof. A single metal personnel door in a bricked-in area that may have once held a large bay door, and a dark brown roll-up bay door are the main features of the north elevation. The roll-up door appears to be recent; the concrete around the doorway does not match the original construction.

Alterations/Additions

Other than the minor changes discussed above, there have been no major alterations or additions made to Building No. 2010.

Function

Building No. 2010 was designed and built to provide training space for aircrew members relative to bombing skills procedures. Renamed the Physiological Training Building in 1991, Building No. 2010 provided facilities for training aircrew member and jet passengers in subjects such as physiological and acceleration effects of high-altitude flying, acceleration forces, spatial disorientation training, night vision, rapid decompression, ejection seat escape, oxygen equipment, and pressure suit adjustment. It was also used for the training of equipment technicians and aircraft maintenance personnel in the function, use and repair of oxygen equipment and other personal equipment. Specialized equipment installed in the building included low and high-pressure chambers, vacuum pumps, high compressors, rapid decompression valves, barometers, ejection seat trainers, oxygen cylinders, regulators and masks, pressure suits and helmets with related equipment, pressure breathing, consoles, night vision trainers, spatial disorientation demonstrators, film projects, communications equipment and medical equipment. All of the equipment associated with the training mission of this building was removed following the closure of Plattsburgh AFB.

Significance

The end of World War II saw the beginning of hostile relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, based on differing social, economic, and political views. As this "Cold War" escalated, the United States instituted a policy of containment, which called for a "peaceful" blocking of the expansion of Soviet political and economic influence. Nuclear weapons, which had also developed at the end of World War II, held a significant place in this conflict, but it was theorized that an American nuclear capability, if strong enough, could deter unwanted soviet expansion.

On March 21, 1946, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering the atomic weapons. With the motto "peace is our profession" SAC was the physical realization of America's deterrence theory.

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the exceptional instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these facilities, among which would have to be counted the Physiological Training Building.

Building No.2010 at Plattsburgh AFB was constructed in 1958 to support and enhance the SAC flight mission. It was an essential part of Plattsburgh AFB Cold War era activities and a critical element of Plattsburgh AFB SAC flight operations.

Drawings

Copies of as-built drawings for Physiological Training Building, Building No. 2010, which are the reverse image of those for Building No. 2008, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.

1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

United States Air Force

1959 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Accountable Record (1959-1989).

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)
HAER No. NY-326-BG
(Page 4)

United States Air Force

1991 *Peace...is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

United States Air Force

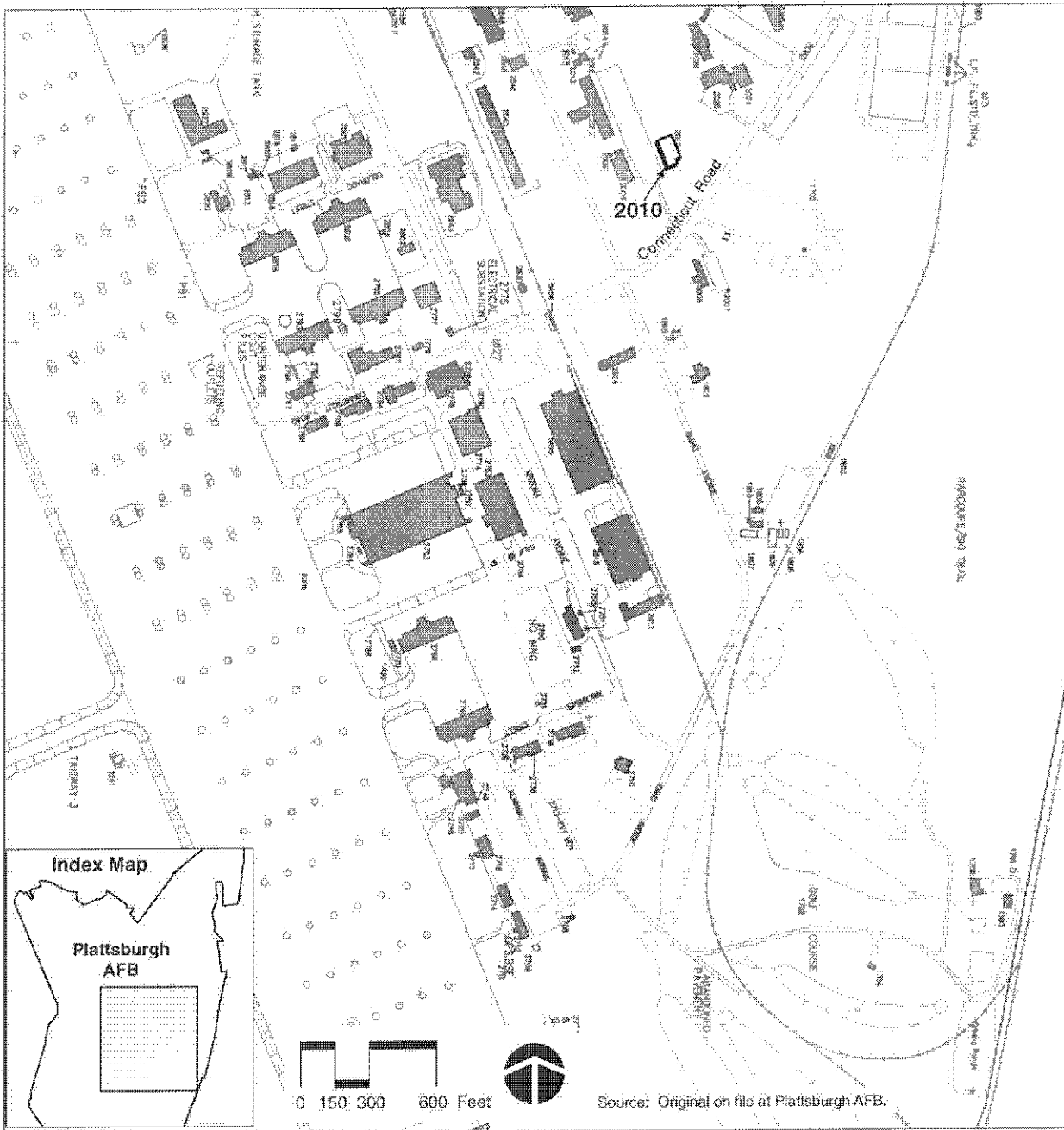
2000 Plattsburgh Air Force Base Real Property Inventory Detail List.

U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence

1998 *Draft Historic Building Inventory and Evaluation Plattsburgh Air Force Base New York.* Volumes I and II, June.

(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)

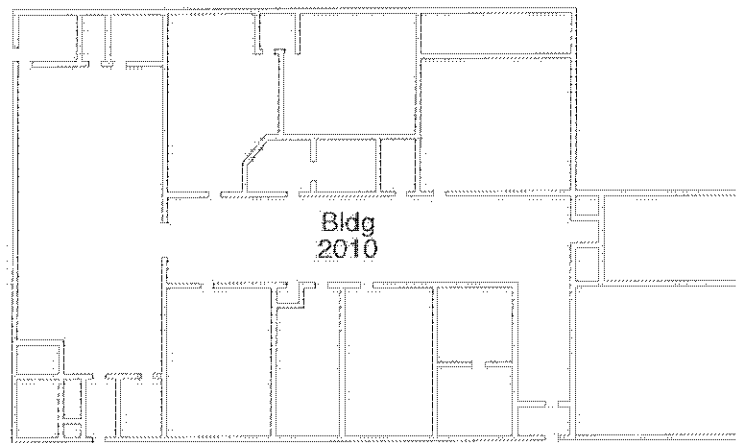
HAER No. NY-326-BG (Page 5)



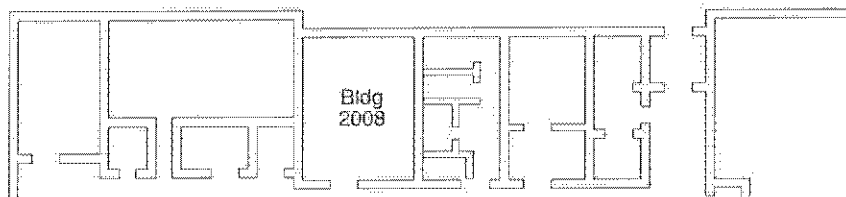
Location Map for Physiological Training Building, Building No. 2010

Copyright Free

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)
HAER No. NY-326-BG
(Page 6)



Sketch not to Scale



SKETCH PLAN - PHYSIOLOGICAL TRAINING BUILDING
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2010)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca.2000)
Copyright Free